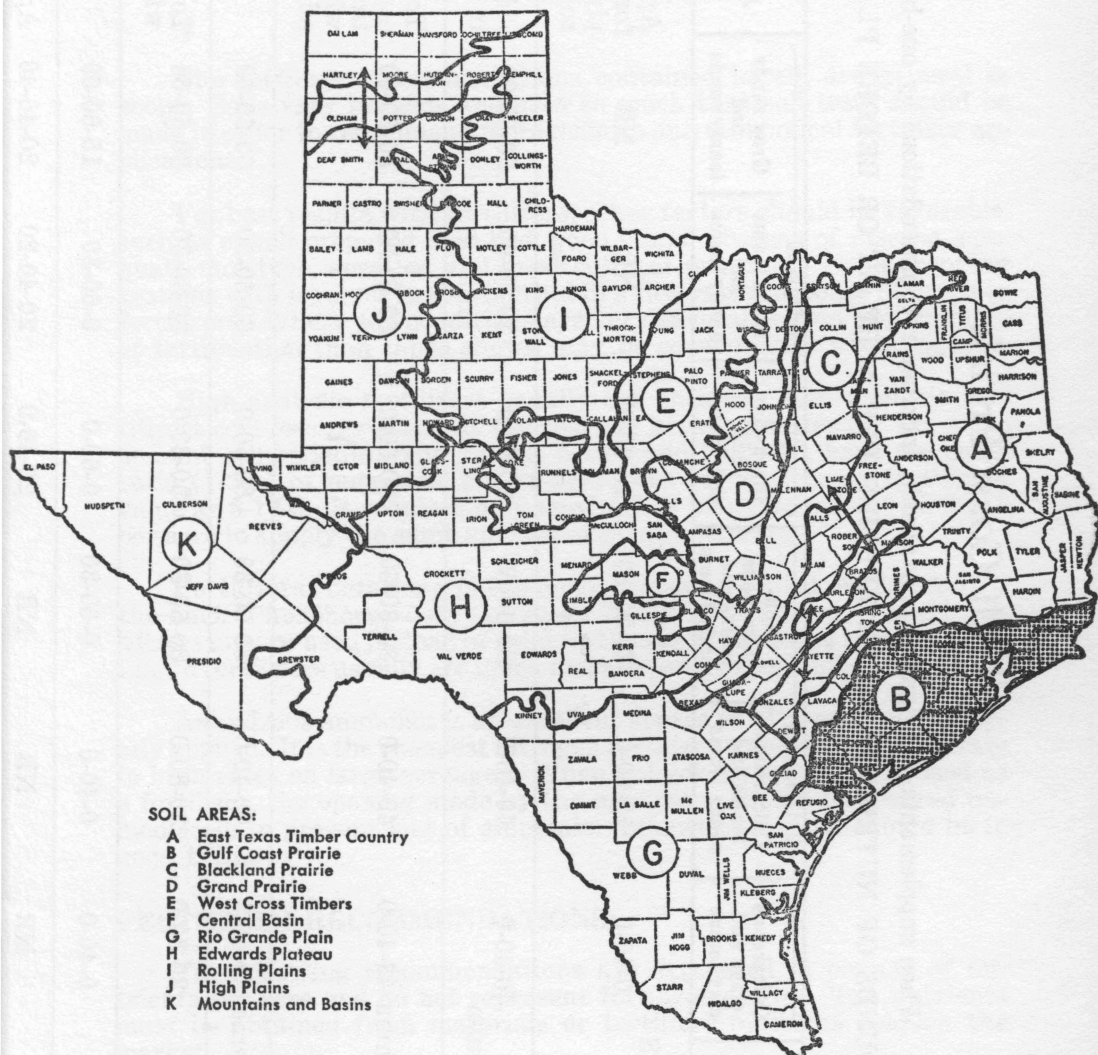


# FERTILIZER RECOMMENDATIONS

## *for the Gulf Coast Prairie*



Adapted from Texas Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 431, by W. T. Carter.

TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

J. E. Hutchison, Director, College Station, Texas

# FERTILIZER RECOMMENDATIONS

## *for the Gulf Coast Prairie*

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The fertilizer recommendations contained herein are general in scope. Soils vary in fields and area so much that soil tests should be made in order to recommend more definite and economical fertilizer applications.

For best results with fertilizers, other factors should be favorable, such as a well-prepared seed bed, good stand, absence of disease, adequate moisture, aeration and good cultural practices. Good cropping systems with legumes in rotation aid in a favorable response of crops to fertilizers. Where soil conditions are very favorable even higher rates of fertilization than those shown may be economically advantageous.

High-analysis fertilizers usually are cheaper. Low-analysis fertilizers cost less per bag, but the cost per acre is greater for the same amount of nutrients. The grades, 5-10-5 and 10-20-10, have the same ratio (1-2-1) of nutrients, but 10-20-10 has twice as much fertilizing value as 5-10-5. It requires only one-half as many pounds of 10-20-10 per acre to supply the same amount of plant nutrients.

Fertilizers containing phosphorus should be drilled or plowed into the land. Phosphorus does not move freely into the soil. Liquid fertilizers may be used instead of solid fertilizers at the same rate per acre. Liquid fertilizers usually are much more expensive per unit of nutrients.

Anhydrous ammonia is an excellent source of nitrogen when properly applied. It is the cheapest nitrogen fertilizer when used at moderate to high rates on large acreages. When anhydrous ammonia is used as a fertilizer, the opening made by the applicator should be covered immediately to prevent loss of ammonia. Likewise, the soil should be in good tilth.

### FERTILIZER RECOMMENDATIONS:

The following recommendations are expressed in pounds of nutrients per acre and do not represent fertilizer grades. The nutrients must be obtained from materials or fertilizer mixtures sold on the market.

For example, a recommendation calling for 30-60-30, which is a 1-2-1 ratio, can be obtained by applying 600 pounds of 5-10-5 or 250 pounds of 12-24-12 or 300 pounds of 10-20-10. Again, if a recommendation calls for 15-60-0, this may be obtained by applying about 400 pounds of a 4-16-0 or 125 pounds of 11-48-0.

**Row Crops:** Fertilizer usually is applied at the time of planting or just before. Fertilizers are more efficiently used by most crops when applied in a band 2 to 3 inches to the side and 2 to 3 inches below the seed.

If equipment for applying fertilizers in bands while planting or cultivating is not available, apply the fertilizer in the water furrow and bed on it when the land is prepared for planting. Avoid putting the seed too close to the fertilizer as germination may be impaired.

If large quantities of nitrogen fertilizer are to be applied, part of the nitrogen should be drilled into the soil with the phosphorus and potash and the remainder applied 35 to 45 days later as a side or top-dressing.

**Small Grains (except rice):** Fertilizers for small grains may be broadcast, drilled in or plowed in. Fertilizers containing nitrogen and potash should not be allowed to touch the seed.

Phosphorus, potash and part of the nitrogen should be applied at or before seeding. The rest of the nitrogen should be applied in the spring before plants begin to joint.

**Pastures:** For establishing improved pastures, fertilizer should be applied in bands when possible. Otherwise, it should be broadcast, drilled or plowed in. For maintenance, topdress with 30-0-0 as needed. Annually repeat basic fertilizer treatment as suggested or according to a soil test.

**Fruit Trees:** Fertilizer for fruit trees may be applied over the entire area covered by the orchard when the trees are mature. In non-bearing orchards, the fertilizer should be applied over the area covered by the spread of the limbs. Keep fertilizer 1 foot away from tree trunks. Cultivate fertilizer applications into the soil.

Recommendations for fertilizers in this circular are those found best by experiments, tests and practical experience in the field. They range from the calcareous (limy) river valley clays to the sands of the uplands. If your farm contains both clays and loams, there will be two recommendations for your land.

When crops follow legumes turned under, the amount of fertilizer to be applied at planting may be reduced. Side or topdress with the amount of fertilizer suggested.

The letters NR mean that the crop is not recommended for this class of soils.

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# Gulf Coast Prairie

When supplementary irrigation is available, increase recommendations by one-half  
POUNDS OF NUTRIENTS TO BE APPLIED PER ACRE AT OR BEFORE PLANTING

	Bottomland			Upland			Additional Treatment
	Calcareous clays and clay loams	Calcareous loams and sandy loams	Non-calcareous loams and sandy loams	Black-clay and clay loams	Black loams and sandy loams	Gray sands and loamy sands	
FIELD CROPS							
Alfalfa	0-40-0	15-60-0	20-80-80	15-60-0*	NR	NR	Apply 0-60-0 annually for maintenance. Apply lime according to soil test
Corn	40-40-0	40-40-0	30-60-60	30-60-0	30-60-60	30-60-90	Sidedress with 60-0-0 in 35 days
Grain sorghum							
Sweet sorghum	40-40-0	40-40-0	30-60-60	30-60-0	30-60-30	30-60-60	Topdress with 30-0-0 each cutting or each time grazed down when soil moisture is adequate
Sudan							
Cotton, sesame	40-40-0	60-40-0	30-60-30	60-60-0	60-60-30	60-60-60	
Flax	30-30-0	30-30-0	30-60-30	30-30-0	30-30-30	30-60-60	Topdress in January with 30-0-0
Legumes	0-40-0	0-40-0	0-60-30	0-60-0	0-60-30	15-60-60	
Peanuts	NR	NR	NR	20-40-0	20-40-20	20-40-40	Apply 300 lb. gypsum at bloom over peg zone
Rice	NR	NR	80-40-0	80-40-0	40-40-20	40-40-20	If fields are weedy the fertilizer should be applied 30-45 days after planting
Pastures							
Grasses and Legumes	30-60-0	30-60-0	30-60-30	30-60-0	30-60-30	30-60-60	Apply lime according to soil test. Topdress 0-30-0 in fall for maintenance
Pastures							
Grasses only, including small grains	30-30-0	30-30-0	30-60-30	30-60-0	30-60-30	30-60-60	Topdress with 30-0-0 each time grazed or cut when soil moisture is adequate. Lime according to soil test
TRUCK CROPS							
Lettuce, cabbage, Mustard Collards	40-40-0	40-80-0	40-80-40	40-80-0	40-80-40	40-80-80	Sidedress with 60-0-0 when heads begin to form. For mustard, 10 days from emergence
Carrots, beets, Turnips	40-40-0	40-80-0	40-80-40	40-80-0	40-80-40	40-80-80	
Sweet potatoes	40-40-0	40-80-0	40-80-40	40-80-0	40-80-40	40-80-80	
Irish potatoes	80-40-0	80-80-0	80-80-40	80-80-0	80-80-40	80-80-80	
Tomatoes, peppers, eggplants	40-40-0	40-80-0	40-80-40	40-80-0	40-80-40	40-80-80	Sidedress with 30-0-0 if soil moisture is adequate

Cantaloupes	30-30-0	30-60-0	30-60-30	30-60-0	30-60-30	30-60-60	
Squash, Cucumbers	30-30-0	30-60-0	30-60-30	30-60-0	30-60-30	30-60-60	Sidedress with 30-0-0 when vines start to bloom
Watermelons	20-40-0	20-80-0	20-80-80	20-80-0	20-80-40	20-80-40	Sidedress with 20-0-0 when vines start to bloom
Onions	40-40-0	40-80-0	40-80-40	40-80-0	40-80-40	40-80-80	
General garden	40-80-0	40-80-40	40-40-40	40-80-0	40-80-40	40-80-80	Sidedress in 40 days with 40-0-0
FRUIT TREES							
Figs	30-30-0	30-60-0	30-60-30	30-60-0	30-60-30	30-60-60	Sidedress in May or June with 30-0-0
Pecans	<b>Nitrogen—All soil types</b> For bearing trees apply 1/3 lb. of N per diameter inch of tree in late February or early March. For young trees apply from one-fourth to one-half as much N, depending on the size of the tree.  <b>Zinc—All soil types</b> If there are any signs of rosette or if the orchard has any history of zinc deficiency, spray pecan leaves with 3 lb. of 36% zinc sulfate per 100 gal. of water when leaves are one-third grown.						

The recommendations given above are based on normal moisture conditions for the area, to insure good yields. In years when subsoil moisture is very low and surface soil moisture is below normal, then use 1/3 to 1/4 less at planting time, using the remainder as a sidedressing if rains come within 30 days from planting.

\*In those areas with good subsurface drainage.